

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant ~~filamentous Actinomyceete~~ Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium, said method comprising:

providing a ~~filamentous Actinomyceete~~ Streptomyces or a Saccharopolyspora bacterium, said ~~filamentous Actinomyceete~~ Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium lacking detectable endogenous SsgA, with ~~the capability of having or expressing heterologous SsgA, which heterologous SsgA, in Streptomyces griseus, is encoded by an ssgA gene~~ an expressible polynucleotide encoding a heterologous SsgA comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 ÷

```

1 ATGCGCGAGTCGGTTC AAGCAGAGGTCATGATGAGCTTCCTCGTCTCCGA
51 GGAGCTCTCGTTCGGTATTCGGTGGAGCTCCGATACGAGGTCGGCGATC
101 CGTATGCCATCCGGATGACGTTCCACCTTCCCGGCGATGCCCCTGTGACC
151 TGGGCGTTCGGCCGCGAGCTGCTGCTGGACGGGCTCAACAGCCCGAGCGG
201 CGACGGCGATGTGCACATCGGCCCGACCGAGCCCGAGGGCCTCGGAGATG
251 TCCACATCCGGCTCCAGGTCGGCGCGGACCGTGCGCTGTTCCGGGCGGGG
301 ACGGCACCGCTGGTGGCGTTCCTCGACCGGACGGACAAGCTCGTGCCGCT
351 CGGCCAGGAGCACACGCTGGGTGACTTCGACGGCAACCTGGAGGACGCAC
401 TGGGCCCGCATCCTCGCCGAGGAGCAGAACGCCGGCTGA (SEQ ID NO: 1).

```

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said heterologous SsgA is provided by~~ providing the expressible polynucleotide comprises transfecting or transforming said ~~filamentous Actinomyceete~~ Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium with DNA the expressible polynucleotide encoding said the heterologous SsgA.

4-7. Canceled.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said ~~DNA~~ expressible polynucleotide is integrated into the genome of the ~~filamentous Actinomyceete~~ Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said ~~DNA~~ expressible polynucleotide is part of an episomal element.

10. Canceled.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein expression of ~~said SsgA~~ the expressible polynucleotide is inducible or repressible with a signal.

12-13. Canceled.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said ~~filamentous Actinomyceete~~ Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium produces a useful product.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said useful product is an antibiotic.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said useful product is a protein.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said protein is heterologous to said ~~filamentous Actinomyceete~~ Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said protein is expressed from a vector encoding said protein present in said ~~filamentous Actinomyceete~~ Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said protein is secreted by said ~~filamentous Actinomycete~~ Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium.

20-28. Canceled.

29. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~ssgA gene~~ expressible polynucleotide encodes a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: ~~3~~ 1.

30. (Previously presented) A method for producing a recombinant Actinomycete bacterium, said method comprising:

transforming an Actinomycete bacterium lacking a detectable endogenous SsgA with a means for enhancing septation and fragmentation in a culture of the Actinomycete bacterium;

wherein the Actinomycete bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Streptomyces coelicolor*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces clavuligerus* and *Saccharopolyspora erythraea*.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the means for enhancing septation and fragmentation comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the means for enhancing septation and fragmentation encodes a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

33. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant Actinomycete bacterium, said method comprising:

transforming an Actinomycete bacterium lacking a detectable endogenous SsgA with a nucleic acid encoding a heterologous SsgA comprising SEQ ID NO: 3;

wherein the Actinomycete bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Streptomyces coelicolor*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces clavuligerus* and *Saccharopolyspora erythraea*.

Serial No. 09/749,185

34. Canceled.